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English

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Item 4(a) of the provisional agenda *

**Reports: Governments on the situation in their countries and on the progress made
in the standardisation of geographical names**

Report of Brunei Darussalam

Submitted by Brunei Darussalam **

Summary:

The Brunei Darussalam National Geographical Names Committee (JKNG) is a national committee responsible for the standardisation of geographical names to assist the government and relevant agencies in understanding geographical names from the aspects of history, culture, meaning, writing, spelling and pronunciation.

The COVID-19 pandemic had given the opportunity for the committee to focus on reorganising records and documentations as well as compiling materials and preparing avenues for public awareness. In 2022, the JKNG was reenergized and has had regular meetings and kickstarted site visits on pending geographical names.

This report covers all activities and the progress relating to geographical names, road naming and related matters that have been carried out by the Brunei Darussalam National Geographical Names Committee (JKNG) including achievements for the period between November 2021 and December 2022.

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** Prepared by Brunei Darussalam National Geographical Names Committee (JKNG)

Report of Brunei Darussalam

A. INTRODUCTION

This report covers all activities for the period between November 2021 and December 2022 that have been carried out by the **Brunei Darussalam National Geographical Names Committee (JKNG)** including achievements and the progress relating to geographical names, road naming and related matters.

B. ACTIVITIES

1. Involvement in the UNGEGN, Asia South-East (ASE) Division

- 1.1. The JKNG participated in all prior Divisional Meetings of UNGEGN ASE Division. Reported in the meeting were the JKNG's national commitments, developments, achievements and activities. The JKNG also had the opportunity to present papers in the meeting and seminar.
- 1.2. Brunei Darussalam was elected as the Chairperson of the UNGEGN, Asia South-East Division for the 2022-2026 session during the 10th Divisional Meeting of the UNGEGN ASE Division.

2. JKNG Meeting

The committee has held four meetings to discuss geographical features and road names.

3. Naming of Roads

- 3.1. "Jejambat Lugu" flyover was officiated on Sunday, 20th February 2022 by the Minister of Development, Brunei Darussalam. This new flyover shortens travel time, particularly for the Kampung Lugu National Housing residents as this route bypasses Jalan Tutong and avoid making a u-turn at the Muara-Tutong Highway which is about 6 kilometers away from Kampung Lugu.
- 3.2. Three roads within the Brunei and Muara District Municipal Board ("Jalan Penghubung Menglait", "Jalan Menglait Satu" and "Jalan Menglait Dua") have been approved and officially named.
- 3.3. The JKNG also received complaints regarding road names from the public and other agencies. Road names that are proposed must be discussed in the committee meeting before they are forwarded to the national authority for approval. To date there are several proposed names yet to be discussed.

4. Naming of Geographical Features

The committee conducted the first site visit in December 2022 after the COVID-19 pandemic hit the nation. The two site visits were conducted on 1:10,000 Tutong District's map sheets covering Bakiau and Birau. 19 geographical names were approved and updated in the database.

5. JKNG Gazetteer

The gazetteer has been produced for easy reference and the records are organised into 23 feature types. It is properly documented and published in the JKNG's Official Website.

6. Guidelines to Geographical Names and Road Naming of Brunei Darussalam

The committee is still in the finalising stage and is aimed to be published this year. The guidelines will serve as a working manual and reference for the committee to ensure that the naming procedures are standardized.

7. JKNG's Official Website and Logo

The official website and new logo have been fully developed. Any recent naming of roads and geographical entities are published there. The committee has also been preparing social media contents to be published through Instagram.

C. FUTURE ACTIVITIES

1. Launching of the Guidelines to Geographical Names and Road Naming of Brunei Darussalam

The proofreading for the guideline is expected to be finalized by March 2023 and published soon after. This guideline will be shared with the relevant agencies for reference apart from it being a guide to standardizing geographical and road names.

2. Updating the JKNG Gazetteer

The JKNG will continue to populate the gazetteer and publish periodically.

3. Naming Activities

With the kickstart of site visits in December 2022, the JKNG is now actively planning to conduct regular site visits to pending road names and geographical features. This will include investigations of the current hill names and then forwarded to the national authority for approval, as reported in the previous UNGEGN. Currently, the Survey Department is collecting GPS points of the landmarks and features along the hiking tracks.

4. Newsletter

This second edition of the JKNG newsletter was released in November 2016. JKNG plans to produce a latest edition which will feature participation in the UNGEGN events, progress of the committee, activities and achievements.

5. 13th Divisional Meeting of the UNGEGN, Asia South-East (ASE) Division

With the recent chairmanship, Brunei Darussalam through the JKNG plans to host the 13th Divisional Meeting of the UNGEGN ASE Division in November 2023, Brunei Darussalam. The meeting will be followed by a one-day seminar on geographical names.

D. CONCLUSION

The pandemic had given the opportunity for the committee to focus on reorganising records and documentations as well as gearing towards preparing materials and avenues for public awareness. In 2022, the JKNG was reenergized and had been planning regular meetings and kickstarted site visits on pending geographical names. Brunei Darussalam through JKNG will continue to be proactive in its activities and educating the public on the history and uniqueness of the names given to their roads and geographical entities.